

DIANZINI

April 1, 1952

Dr. Robert Austrian  
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Dear Dr. Austrian:

I have just seen your interesting very of Bacterial Transformation Reactions in the current issue of Bacteriological Reviews. It appears to me a very useful summary of the status of the field as of the time of its writing, and regret that I did not see it in time to include a reference to it in the paper that Zinder and I have sent in on genetic exchange in Salmonella. (You will possibly have seen his announcement in MGB).

This brings me to the point of this letter, your reference 26. From the very beginning, as I understood it, (see pa. 4, MGB-1), MGB has been agreed not to be a publication, and citations should not be made to it. I would not have submitted my comment quoted as ref. 26 on any other basis. Before such a comment is quoted at length in an unrestricted publication, I would think that Dianzini should have an opportunity to reply. May I request, therefore, that an erratum be submitted for inclusion in the next issue of Bact. Rev. that ref. 26 should have been personal communication.

Naturally, I was very much interested in your suggestions on p. 35 about the usefulness of transformations in K-12. We have of course tried to do this, completely fruitlessly. On the other hand, while there is so far no evidence of sexual recombination in Salmonella, I would not exclude the possibility of it, and we are looking as hard as we can. It might be worth pointing out that Boivin's observations are no longer accessible to verification, as his strains seem to have been irrevocably lost about the time of his death. It is difficult for me to be sure just what he did have-- that is, the interpretation, not the experiments.

One last point (see your page 47, second para.): would you make DNA part of the definition of a transforming factor?

May I ask you to save a reprint of the review for me? Thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg